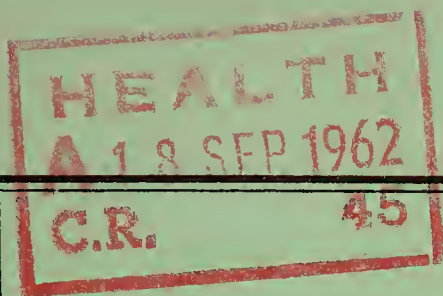


*inwards*



# Barnstaple Rural District

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# Annual Report

ON

## The Health of the Area

VITAL STATISTICS  
SANITARY WORKS

Etc.

For the Year 1961.





BARNSTAPLE RURAL DISTRICT

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ANNUAL REPORT

ON

THE HEALTH OF THE AREA

VITAL STATISTICS

SANITARY WORKS

Etc.

For the Year 1961.

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BY

E. WILLIAMS

(M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond., D.P.H. Oxon.)

*Medical Officer of Health*

and

A. J. DENNIS

(M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.)

*Chief Public Health Inspector.*



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*The Health Department,  
The Red House,  
Castle Street,  
Barnstaple.*

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Barnstaple Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mesdames Miles, Burgess, Gillespie and  
Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the health and  
vital statistics of the Barnstaple Rural District for the year  
1961.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the  
Health Committee for their help and interest in the work  
of the department and also to thank the Chief Public  
Health Inspector and Staff for their co-operation during  
the year.

Your obedient Servant

E. WILLIAMS,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

*Chairman:* J. Chugg.

*Vice Chairman:* J. H. George.

Councillors: —

T. Anstey, C.A.  
J. E. Andrew, C.C., J.P.  
G. H. Beard.  
B. M. Beynon.  
E. T. Boone.  
R. Bowden.  
C. H. Bray.  
W. T. C. Buckingham, C.A.  
Mrs. C. B. Burgess.  
C. Chichester, J.P.  
C. H. Cowler.  
G. W. Creek.  
G. R. Huxtable.  
H. R. Latham.  
A. Moon.  
W. W. Nott.  
W. Pengelly.  
W. R. Pugsley.  
F. J. Rice.  
F. J. Richards, C.A., J.P.  
G. A. Staddon.  
C. W. Trigger.  
R. J. S. Welch.  
W. H. Yeo.  
C. G. Yeo.

## STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of:—

### Part Time Officer:

*Medical Officer of Health:* Dr. E. Williams,  
M.R.C.S.Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond., D.P.H.Oxon.

### Whole Time Officers:

*Chief Public Health Inspector, Engineer and Surveyor:*  
A. J. Dennis, M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.H.

*Public Health Inspectors:* J. W. Bolton,  
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.  
F. A. Lethbridge, M.R.S.H.  
(From 13.2.61).

*Building Inspector:* E. Masters. (From 1.9.61).

*Articled Pupils:* N. J. Dennis (until 30.4.61).  
N. Venner.

*Clerks:* Mrs. J. Kelly.  
Mr. P. Lethbridge.

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## SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The chief occupations of the district are:—

1. Agriculture.
2. Catering for Visitors.

The locality may be regarded as purely non-industrial, and employment is on the whole steady.



1961

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# ANNUAL REPORT

## of the Medical Officer of Health for the Barnstaple Rural District

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### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres ... ..	129,346
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-year Estimate) ... ..	25,290
Inhabited Houses ... ..	7,969
Number of Council Owned Houses... ..	615
Density of Persons per House ... ..	3.2
Rateable Value ... ..	£317,429
Value of a Penny Rate (Estimate) ... ..	£1,330, 2s. 8d.

### VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births ... ..	338
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population ... ..	13.36
	(15.23 corrected)
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births ...	0.29
Stillbirths ... ..	7
Still-birth rate per 1,000 live and still-births ... ..	20.29
Total live and still-births ... ..	345
Infant deaths under 1 year ... ..	4
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—total ...	11.83
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—legitimate	11.83
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—illegitimate	Nil
Neo Natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births) ... ..	8.87
Early Neo Natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births) ... ..	5.91
Peri-Natal mortality rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 Total Live and Still-births) ... ..	26.08
Maternal mortality (including abortion)... ..	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	Nil
Deaths ... ..	299
Death rate per 1,000 population ... ..	11.42
	(corrected 9.935)
Births: Comparability Factor ... ..	1.14
Deaths: Comparability Factor ... ..	0.87



## BIRTHS—LIVE

			Males	Females	Total
Live Births	Legitimate	...	169	149	218
	Illegitimate	...	14	6	20
	Total	...	183	155	338
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population		...	...	...	713.36
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales		...	...	...	17.4
Birth Rate adjusted by area comparability factor		...			15.23

## STILLBIRTHS

			Males	Females	Total
Stillbirths	Legitimate	...	3	3	6
	Illegitimate	...	1	—	1
			4	3	7

## Population Trends since 1947

Year		Population	Live Births	Deaths
1947	Estimated Figures	21,290	419	299
1948		22,020	376	285
1949		23,140	338	318
1950		22,520	334	298
1951	Census	23,150	324	314
1952		23,030	342	322
1953		23,360	318	257
1954		23,410	346	296
1955		23,642	334	316
1956		24,070	343	302
1957		24,010	369	300
1958		24,370	362	276
1959		24,370	356	294
1960		25,050	365	272
1961		25,290	338	299

## DEATHS

A total of 299 Barnstaple Rural District residents died during the year, 156 being males and 143 females.

The following table gives causes of deaths:—

				Males	Females
Tuberculosis	Respiratory	...	...	1	—
Tuberculosis	Other	...	...	—	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases		...	...	1	—
Malignant, neoplasm, stomach		...	...	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus		...	...	9	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast		...	...	—	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus		...	...	—	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms				13	13

Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	2
Diabetes	...	...	...	—	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...			22	22
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	30	21
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	4	1
Other heart disease	...	...	...	33	25
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	6	13
Pneumonia	...	...	...	4	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	7	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	...			1	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...		1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...		1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	3	—
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	2	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...			7	13
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	3	1
All other accidents	...	...	...	3	1
Suicide	...	...	...	2	2

### Neo-Natal Deaths

This represents the number of deaths occurring in infants under the age of 4 weeks:—

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Neo-Natal death rate per 1,000 Total Live Births: 8.87

### Infant Mortality Rate

During the year 4 infants died under the age of 1 year. There were no deaths amongst illegitimate infants:—

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Total Live Births:— 11.83

The following table gives causes of death occurring in infants under 1 year:—

Age	M.	F.	Cause of Death
10 hours	—	1	Pulmonary Syndrome— prematurity
5 hours	—	1	Respiratory obstruction diaphragmatic hernia
5 hours	1	—	Pulmonary Oedema con- genital abnormalities of lungs
1 month	—	1	Multiple congenital abnor- malities

**Maternal Mortality**

There were no maternal deaths attributable to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion during the year.

**Cancer Deaths**

There were 51 deaths from cancer during the year as compared with 41 in 1960.

					Males	Females	Total
Stomach	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
Lung and Bronchus	...	...	...	...	9	2	11
Breast	...	...	...	...	—	6	6
Uterus	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
Others	...	...	...	...	13	13	26

**Deaths from Lung Cancer**

Year					M.	F.
1950	...	...	...	...	1	1
1951	...	...	...	...	1	—
1952	...	...	...	...	5	1
1953	...	...	...	...	5	2
1954	...	...	...	...	5	1
1955	...	...	...	...	5	—
1956	...	...	...	...	7	—
1957	...	...	...	...	8	2
1958	...	...	...	...	9	2
1959	...	...	...	...	7	2
1960	...	...	...	...	6	2
1961	...	...	...	...	9	2

The total number of cancer deaths since 1947 is shown in the following table:—

Year				Total No. of Deaths	— Cancer Deaths —		
					M.	F.	Total
1947	...	...		299	19	23	42
1948	...	...		285	22	21	43
1949	...	...		318	19	23	42
1950	...	...		298	14	24	38
1951	...	...		314	14	26	40
1952	...	...		322	26	29	55
1953	...	...		257	18	27	45
1954	...	...		296	20	30	50
1955	...	...		316	21	26	47
1956	...	...		302	25	30	55
1957	...	...		300	31	26	57
1958	...	...		276	21	22	43
1959	...	...		294	24	28	52
1960	...	...		272	20	21	41
1961	...	...		299	24	27	51

### Infectious Diseases

The following tables give particulars of the Infectious Diseases notified during the year:—

Measles	...	...	...	...	562
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	4
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	21
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	1
Paratyphoid B.	...	...	...	...	1
Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	2

No cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Dysentery, Erysipelas, Puerperal Pyrexia, or Poliomyelitis were reported during the year.

Seven cases of Tuberculosis notified in accordance with the regulations were as follows:—

Age Period		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
1— 5 years	...	—	—	—	—
5—14 years	...	—	—	1	—
15—24 years	...	1	2	—	1
25—44 years	...	1	—	—	—
45—64 years	...	—	—	—	—
65 and over	...	—	1	—	—

### Tuberculosis—Distribution of Cases

Ashford	...	...	...	...	1
Atherington	...	...	...	...	1
Landkey	...	...	...	...	1
Marwood	...	...	...	...	1
Mortehoe	...	...	...	...	1
Swimbridge	...	...	...	...	1
Stoke Rivers	...	...	...	...	1

The following table shows the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register on 1st January and 31st December, 1961:—

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Year 1961 ...						
1st January	59	41	100	13	8	21
31st December	53	36	89	8	8	16

**INCIDENCE OF PULMONARY AND NON-PULMONARY  
TUBERCULOSIS SINCE 1947**

Year	No. of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Case Rate per 1,000 population	No. of Deaths	Death Rate 1,000 population	Non- Pulmonary
1947	15	0.7	3	0.14	3
1948	14	0.68	1	0.04	7
1949	22	0.95	3	0.13	4
1950	10	0.44	4	0.17	6
1951	23	0.99	7	0.30	7
1952	21	0.91	6	0.26	11
1953	24	1.03	3	0.12	4
1954	11	0.47	—	—	3
1955	4	0.17	—	—	1
1956	7	0.29	—	—	2
1957	5	0.20	1	0.04	1
1958	5	0.20	1	0.04	2
1959	4	0.16	1	0.04	1
1960	6	0.23	—	—	—
1961	7	0.27	1	0.04	2



DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1961

Parish	Measles	Pneumonia	Whooping Cough	Food Poisoning	Paratyphoid	Encephalitis	TOTAL
Arlington	8						8
Ashford	6						6
Atherington	27						27
Berrynarbor	5						5
Bishops Tawton	49		1				50
Bittadon	1						1
Bratton Fleming	13		1				14
Braunton	33		1			1	35
Brendon	—						
Challacombe	—						
Combe Martin	34		1				35
Countisbury	1						1
East Down	—						
Fremington	96	1	1				98
Georgeham	21					1	22
Goodleigh	5	1	1				7
Heanton Punchardon	24						24
High Bray	21						21
Horwood	2						2
Instow ...	9	1					10
Kentisbury	—						—
Landkey	13						13
Loxhore	9						9
Martinhoe	1						1
Marwood	24		1				25
Mortehoe	88			1			89
Newton Tracey	2		3		1		6
Parracombe	3		6				9
Pilton West	1						1
Shirwell	10		1				11
Stoke Rivers	4						4
Swimbridge	26						26
Tawstock	16	1	1				18
Trentishoe	1						1
West Down	3						3
Westleigh	6		3				9
Totals	562	4	21	1	1	2	591

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

There were 591 infectious diseases notifications received during the year, the majority of which (562) were measles. The outbreak was spread generally throughout the rural area and started in the Spring, reaching its peak during the months of June and July.

One case of food poisoning occurred and investigations were made but no particular food could be incriminated. A case of paratyphoid was reported and confirmed bacteriologically. This occurred in a village where a paratyphoid outbreak occurred some years ago. Enquiries were made but the source of infection could not be traced. The patient was discharged from hospital following three negative bacteriological reports.

One case of Weils Disease was reported during the year. This patient was detained in hospital for some weeks and eventually recovered. A heavy infestation of rats was reported in the area which had a number of dwellings and small holdings devoted to poultry keeping. This was the second case of Weils Disease to occur in the North Devon area ; the first case, whilst not in the Rural District area, occurred in another neighbouring Authority, the person concerned being a farmer and the disease proved fatal.

During the summer a small outbreak of infective hepatitis occurred in a hamlet in the rural area. The first case was a girl of 12 years and a jaundice appeared about the 20th June. About the 9th<sup>\*</sup> August, her two brothers were affected and between August 9th and 16th, a further six cases occurred, two of these within the hamlet itself, another two in the village a mile away and another two in a village three miles away. The only connecting link between these cases was that they all received their milk from the same farm, which was the home of the primary case. Whilst this is not a notifiable infectious disease, the General Practitioner concerned saw fit to notify the Public Health Department.

## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES**

### **TUBERCULOSIS**

Hawley Hospital, situated in the Borough, has 28 beds.



## **MATERNITY CASES**

At the North Devon Infirmary, there is a ward of 14 beds, with a fully-qualified staff available for cases of doubt or difficulty.

A General Practitioners' Maternity Unit of 13 beds is situated at "Highfield," Victoria Road, Barnstaple.

At Bicclescombe Hospital, Ilfracombe, there are 10 beds for Maternity and Ante-natal patients.

## **ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

There is an Infectious Diseases Isolation Hospital at Bideford, the Kingsley Hospital, which serves Barnstaple as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon.

## **SMALLPOX**

The Smallpox Hospital to which any cases of Smallpox will be sent is Upton Pine Hospital, near Exeter. Special ambulance transport can be obtained by contacting the Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter. (Telephone 67158).

## **GENERAL**

The North Devon Infirmary, situated at Barnstaple, serves the area, and provides modern Medical and Surgical treatment for the residents of the district.

Two wards at the Alexandra Hospital are set aside as an annexe to the wards of the North Devon Infirmary and post-operative and recovery patients are now transferred there as soon as practicable.

There are 101 beds for the chronic sick at the Alexandra Hospital.

At Braunton Nursing Home there are four beds for sick persons.

## **LABORATORY FACILITIES**

The main Laboratory is situated at Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter, and Dr. Moore is the Director. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all patients. Bacteriological examinations of drinking water and milk are also carried out.

There is also a Pathological Laboratory at 75, Boutport Street, Barnstaple, with a full-time Pathologist and Technical Staff to meet the needs of the whole North Devon Area. The Blood Bank is also situated at this Laboratory.

## CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

### V.D. Clinic

This is held at the North Devon Infirmary Annexe.

Sessions:				Females	Males
Monday	...	...	...	4. 0 p.m.	5.15 p.m.
Thursday	...	...	...	4.30 p.m.	5.45 p.m.

### Chest Clinic

The Chest Clinic is held at the North Devon Infirmary Glossop Annexe.

Sessions:

Tuesdays	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	}	Clinic and X-Ray Examinations
	2 p.m. to 4 p.m.		
Thursdays	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.		
	2 p.m. to 4 p.m.		
Fridays	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.		
	2 p.m. to 4 p.m.		

## AMBULANCE SERVICE

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1945, the Local Health Authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service and the Devon Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. The Brigade serves Barnstaple Borough and the District around, and the Headquarters are in Commercial Road, Barnstaple. The staff consists of three paid members (full-time), 20 men volunteers and 14 volunteer nurses. The Hospital car service, also under the Devon County Council, is available upon application to the Hospital by the doctor concerned, and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when the ambulance is not necessary.

## **PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOMES**

There are nine District Nurses in the area, all of whom act as Midwives.

## **IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION**

Protective immunization and vaccination against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Smallpox and Poliomyelitis, are undertaken by the General Practitioners and at the Infant Welfare and School Clinics. There are four Infant Welfare Clinics organised by the Devon County Health Authority within the district. These are held as follows:—

Fremington. Parish Hall.

2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons.

Braunton. Parish Hall.

Thursday afternoons.

Combe Martin. Baptist Chapel Rooms.

2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoons.

Woolacombe. Methodist Hall.

2nd and 4th Wednesdays.

## **CARE OF THE AGED**

Where possible, elderly people who are living alone are given every assistance to enable them to remain as long as possible in their own homes. The more needy cases are visited by the Health Visitors, and in instances of ill-health, by the District Nurses. They are also assisted in running their own homes through the Home Help Scheme. This is operated locally by the W.V.S. through Mrs. M. Hughes, for the Devon County Council, and extends into all the North Devon rural area wherever transport is available.

There are now 98 Home Helps, full-time and part-time.

During the year, 603 cases were dealt with. Of these, at least 89 old people are being cared for, who, but for the services of the Home Help Scheme, would have to go into hospital or a Welfare Home.

There are 22 blind persons who are being cared for, and during the year there were also 33 maternity cases at which the Home Helps assisted in the homes.



Any case recommended by a Doctor, Health Visitor, District Nurse or Hospital Almoner may have the services of a Home Help.

The W.V.S. have also arranged a rota of helpers who visit the aged in their homes, take them magazines, and do their shopping for them, etc.

The W.V.S. also run an "S.O.S." window-card scheme for elderly persons. These cards, which are provided by the Local Rotarians, are issued to the elderly who are living alone. At the back of the card is written the name of the family Doctor, the nearest relative, etc. The idea is that, should any assistance be required, one of these cards is put in the window, and help is forthcoming.

*"Meals on Wheels."* This is a service also provided by the W.V.S. A two-course meal is prepared and delivered to the homes of the aged for a charge of 1/- per head. Approximately 26 meals are delivered each Wednesday during the year, and they are greatly appreciated.

#### **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (Amendment) ACT, 1951, Sec. 47**

No cases were dealt with under this Act during 1961.

#### **HOUSING**

During the year Closing or Demolition Orders were passed by the Council with regard to 6 dwellings. Six families from unfit dwellings were rehoused.

During the year 194 houses were erected by private owners.

The Council approved 36 applications for Discretionary Grants and 44 applications for Standard Grants.

The number of Council houses built was two. The Council are experiencing great difficulty in acquiring suitable sites and during the year negotiations for over 20 acres of land at Fremington and Braunton were in progress. Eighteen dwellings are now under construction. The number of applicants on the housing list at December 31st, 1961, was 240.

## WATER SUPPLIES

The majority of villages and hamlets in the 36 Parishes of the Rural District are on mains water supplied by the North Devon Water Board.

The water intake is from two sources, one from the River Yeo at a point some 5 miles from the town of Barnstaple. This water is filtered through sand filter beds and chlorinated at the Pilton Treatment Works. The other source of supply is from the Water Board's reservoir at Wistlandpound. This is treated by filtration and chlorination at the Board's Works at Bratton Fleming.

The following table shows the existing water supplies in the various Parishes :—

Parish	Population 1951 Census	
Arlington	157	Small hamlet—scattered dwellings—private main supply, owned by National Trust.
Ashford	166	Compact village—main supply—North Devon Water Board.
Atherington	391	Compact village—main supply—North Devon Water Board.
Berrynarbor	650	Compact village—main supply—North Devon Water Board.
Bishops Tawton	1023	Compact village—main supply—North Devon Water Board.
Bittadon	36	Isolated dwellings—on well water supply.
Bratton Fleming	480	village—main water—North Devon Water Board.
Braunton	3819	large village—main water—North Devon Water Board.
Brendon	244	small hamlet and scattered dwellings—private supplies—springs.
Challacombe	147	small hamlet—springs and wells—private supplies.
Combe Martin	2310	large village—mains water—North Devon Water Board.
Countisbury	118	hamlet and scattered dwellings—private supplies—springs.
East Down	258	hamlet—main laying in progress—North Devon Water Board.
Fremington	2738	large village—mains water—North Devon Water Board.

Georgeham	1001	large village—mains water—North Devon Water Board.
Goodleigh	229	village—mains water—North Devon Water Board.
Heanton Punchardon	1358	village—mains water—North Devon Water Board.
High Bray	144	village—mains water—North Devon Water Board.
Horwood	69	hamlet—mains water—North Devon Water Board.
Instow	785	village—mains water—North Devon Water Board.
Kentisbury	290	village—supplied from Ilfracombe Reservoir water mains—water not filtered and chlorinated.
Loxhore	148	Upper Loxhore on mains water—National Trust Property. Lower Loxhore—spring supply.
Martinhoe	191	hamlet and scattered dwellings—private wells and springs.
Marwood	599	mains water—North Devon Water Board.
Mortehoe	1328	village—mains water—North Devon Water Board.
Newton Tracey	107	mains water—North Devon Water Board.
Parracombe	368	mains water—North Devon Water Board.
Pilton West	125	mains water—North Devon Water Board.
Shirwell	352	mains water—North Devon Water Board.
Stoke Rivers	143	main water scheme in progress.
Swimbridge	1024	mains water—North Devon Water Board.
Tawstock	1125	mains water—North Devon Water Board.
Trentishoe	48	hamlet—springs.
West Down	494	mains water—North Devon Water Board.
Westleigh	479	mains water—North Devon Water Board.

During the year the Bratton Down reservoir was completed. This has a capacity of 3-4 million gallons of water and was built to supply water to levels above that of Wistlandpound reservoir, as a result mains water has now been piped to Blackmoor Gate, Kentisburyford and Berry Down areas—also Brayford and High Bray.

During 1961 the Board provided mains water to 302 farms and dwellings.

The following table indicates the number of water samples taken throughout the year: —

Authority	No. of Samples Taken	Satisfactory
Barnstaple Rural District Council	73	43
For Improvement Grant purposes	19	
North Devon Water Board	56	56

There are 24 schools administered by the Devon County Council and three private schools within the rural area. All are on mains water supplied by the North Devon Water Board, with the exemption of Kentisbury and Countisbury Junior Schools. These are supplied by springs and samples submitted for bacteriological examination during the year were satisfactory.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF

## CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR ENGINEER and BUILDING SURVEYOR

---

*The Red House,  
Castle Street,  
Barnstaple.*

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Barnstaple Rural District Council.  
Mesdames Miles, Burgess, Gillespie and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my 16th Annual Report of work  
carried out during 1961.

The Barnstaple Rural District embraces 36 Parishes,  
129,346 acres in area. The population is 25,050. The num-  
ber of properties is:—

Number of houses and flats (including 1,173 agricul- tural dwellinghouses and 613 Council houses)...	7925
Number of commercial premises, e.g. shops with dwelling accommodation, Banks, lock-ups, Hotels, Boarding houses, Garages, etc. ...	917
Number of Public Houses ...	59
Number of Entertainment and Recreational prem- ises, e.g. Cinemas, Golf Clubs, Dance Halls, Swimming Pools, etc. ...	69
Number of Educational and Cultural premises, e.g. Schools, Colleges, Libraries, etc. ...	28
Number of miscellaneous properties, e.g. huts, common properties, etc. ...	275
Number of Industrial premises, e.g. Factories, Work- shops, etc. ...	32
Number of Public Utility premises ...	50
	<hr/> 9355 <hr/>

North Devon is a holiday area and the influx of summer visitors causes a very wide variation between the winter and summer population. No accurate information is available as to the summer population.

The provision of a sewerage scheme for Landkey, Swimbridge and Bishops Tawton is still not finalised, but after negotiation and discussion, it is hoped that an outline scheme for the three Parishes will soon be ready.

Some progress has been made in the preparation of the Braunton Scheme, however, and it is hoped to invite tenders in the New Year.

Schemes have been completed during the year at Goodleigh and Berrynarbor.

Reference to the following table will show that of the schemes most recently completed, namely Atherington, Goodleigh and Parracombe, the proportion of properties connected is smaller than one would expect, but the number of connections is steadily increasing, and in time the proportion will be as high as in villages where schemes have been in existence for many years.

One of the main causes of delay is due to the lack of Contractors willing to undertake the work. So much estate development is taking place in North Devon at the present time that little labour is available for this type of work. The post war years have seen many changes in rural life, not the least of which is the passing of the village craftsman, making the country dweller dependent upon the large contractors.

## SUMMARY OF SEWERAGE INSTALLATIONS IN YOUR AREA

Key No.	Sewerage System	Total No. of Properties	Pop. Est. 1 x 3.5	No. of houses connect'd	Pop. using system	Est. D.W.F. Pop. x 30 gals. P.H. per day
1	ATHERINGTON	38 1 school 2 others	133	17	42	1260
2	BERRYNARBOR	New works 15	52	10	35	1050
		Old works 12	42	9	31	930
3	BISHOPS TAWTON	75	262	70	245	7350
4	BRATTON FLEMING	106	371	100	350	10500
5	BRAUNTON	1197	4189	1170	4095	122850W 200000S
5A	KNOWLE	46	161	40	140	4200
5B	SAUNTON	32 1 Club	162	30	105	3150W 9450S
6	COMBE MARTIN	789	2761	750	2625	78750W 236250S
7	GEORGEHAM and CROYDE	325 3 Car Sites	1137	300	1050	31500W
				466x	35	94500S 16310
						110810S
8	GOODLEIGH	46	161	15	53	1590
9	INSTOW	148 1 Camp 5 others	518	140	490 100	14700 3000 1250
						18950
10	LANDKEY	46	161	40	105	3150
11	MORTEHOE and WOOLACOMBE	342 3 Caravan Sites 20 others	1197	325	1137	34110
			303 x 35 20 x 250			170550S 10605 5000
						186155S

# SUMMARY OF SEWERAGE INSTALLATIONS IN YOUR AREA—(continued)

Key No.	Sewerage System	Total No. of Properties	Pop. Est. 1 x 3.5	No. of houses connect'd	Pop. using system	Est. D.W.F. Pop. x 30 gals. P.H. per day
12	PARRACOMBE	68 1 school 3 others	238	35	122	3660 1000 4660
13	SOUTH BANK	1407 2 car sites 4 schools 15 others	4924	1380	4830  (Instow)	144900 7805 6600 3750 18950 182005
14	SWIMBRIDGE	95	332	80	280	8400
15	WEST DOWN	69 1 school 2 others	242	60	210	6300 600 500 7400
16	WESTLEIGH	52 2 others	182	45	157	4710 500 5210

W.—Winter.

S.—Summer.



Additional Public Conveniences are to be erected at Combesgate, Woolacombe, after local objection has led to years of delay.

It is also gratifying to report at long last the owner of Putsborough Car Park is proceeding with the erection of Public Conveniences there, having now overcome planning objections.

This amenity is long overdue, and will eliminate one of the worst seasonal nuisances in your area.

The demands on the refuse collection service have increased in proportion to the seasonal and resident population, and the wider use of food wrapping results in far larger quantities of soiled paper to be collected and disposed of. Excluding a special service of litter collection operated during the summer months, an average of 190 tons of refuse are collected weekly.

The service operates with twelve full time men, one part time, and one bull-dozer operator.

Five large, and one small vehicle carry the refuse to three tips where it is levelled and covered.

The satisfactory disposal of such a large volume of refuse is a constant problem and new and more suitably sited tips, with a source of adequate covering material are required, and the provision of such sites is constantly in mind.

At present some vehicles are garaged in Barnstaple and others in Braunton. This makes control difficult. However, it is hoped that one central depot will soon be available to accommodate all the transport.

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act has imposed a heavy burden on the department, and supervision of alterations has meant that one of my staff has been engaged nearly full time in supervising the improvements and alterations on the various sites which have been necessary to conform to the conditions of the Site Licences.

Appended is a list of the sites operating in your area.

## LICENSED CARAVAN SITES

Sites	Total	Residential	Touring
Pine Cross, Woolacombe ...	50		
Berrynarbor Trailer Park ...	50		
Seabirds, Croyde .....	6		
East Cottage, Bickington ...	23	23	
Fortescue, Mortehoe .....	15		
Dune View, Braunton .....	56	30	
Glenavon, Combe Martin ...	100		
Twitchen, Mortehoe .....	275		68 (O.S.449)
Sea View Farm, Woolacombe	245		62
Cleavewood House, Woolacombe	60		
Burrows Mead, Croyde .....	150		
Lundy Meadow, Croyde ...	60	(operated by the caravan Club)	
Over Woolacombe Barton...	70		
North Morte Farm, Mortehoe	73		
Lorna Doone, Parracombe...	20		20
Ruda, Croyde .....	280	1	
Mount View, Landkey .....	24	24	
Chivenor Cross .....	25		25
Score Farm, Braunton .....	22	22	
Down End, Croyde .....	30	6	
Lagoon View, Yelland .....	200	5	
Watermouth Caves, Berrynarbor	61		
Barn Lawn, Georgeham ...	3	1	
The Grange, Kentisbury.....	21		
Sandaway, Berrynarbor ...	90		
Midlands, Ashford .....	63		
Putsborough .....	19		19
Snapper .....	50		50
	<hr/> 2141	<hr/> 112	<hr/> 304

The following sites hold certificates from the Caravan Club of Great Britain and are permitted to accommodate not more than 5 caravans at any one time.

Bay View Garage, Landkey Road .....			
West End Farm, Georgeham			
Blatchford House, Shirwell			
Brookham Farm, Fremington			
Bestridge Farm, Swimbridge			
East Down Rectory, East Down .....			
Beara Manor, Bratton Fleming .....			
Ensis, Harracott .....			
Heddon Mills, Braunton.....			
Wheel Farm, Berrynarbor			
Tuckers Farm, Georgeham			
Hore Down Farm, Bittadon			
Roadway Farm, Woolacombe	65		65
	<hr/> 2206	<hr/> 112	<hr/> 369

In view of the increasing popularity of North Devon, it is my opinion that provision will have to be made for tented sites and that these should be provided with the same facilities as the caravan sites.

Attention was again paid during the past summer to the provision of litter bins and the collection of litter. To prevent the appalling desecration of the countryside, it will be necessary to campaign continuously, and in my opinion this campaign should be organised nationally and not left to the discretion of Local Authorities. The manner in which many visitors to our countryside ignore all propaganda and deposit their litter is disgraceful.

An attempt has been made to maintain a 100% meat inspection, and further details will be found later in the report.



## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

The total number of inspections, re-visits and interviews during the year was 7,004, made up as follows:—

Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water supplies	...	...	...	...	...	62
Sewage Disposal Works	...	...	...	...	...	120
Sewers	...	...	...	...	...	510
Building Byelaws	...	...	...	...	...	954
Town Planning Visits	...	...	...	...	...	702
Drains—Inspected or Tested	...	...	...	...	...	363
Housing repairs	...	...	...	...	...	34
Housing Act Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	22
National Assistance Act	...	...	...	...	...	—
Coast Protection	...	...	...	...	...	6
Inspection of Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	458
Meat and Food Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	406
Inspection of Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	118
Shops Acts Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	94
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	76
Milk Retailers	...	...	...	...	...	14
Public Cleansing	...	...	...	...	...	820
Inspections under Petroleum Acts (including Tank Testing)	...	...	...	...	...	12
Public Health Act Inspections, Nuisances, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	261
Diseases of Animals Acts Visits	...	...	...	...	...	38
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	4
Unclean Premises	...	...	...	...	...	6
Rodent Control visits by Rodent Control Operator	...	...	...	...	...	720
Land Charges—Search	...	...	...	...	...	26
Factories, Workplaces, Workshops, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	59
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	156
Visits re Flooding...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	...	512
Rent Act Visits	...	...	...	...	...	3
Visits to Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	...	228
Rivers Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	16
Public Houses and Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	54
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	20
Number of Council and Committee meetings attended						108

## SUMMARY OF MEAT INSPECTIONS

Animals Inspected	Condemned Carcases		Condemned Portions
		T.B.	Other causes
Sheep 37,824	94		492 Livers 7 Hind Quarters 2 Fore Quarters
Pigs 1,958	2	49 Heads	1 Head 6 Lungs 46 Livers 4 Hearts
Beasts 484 (not cows)	3		14 Livers 3 Part Livers 2 Lungs 1 Head 1 Forequarter
Cows 35	Nil		3 Livers 1 Part Liver

### CYSTICERCUS BOVIS

2 Heifers	...	Head affected
1 Heifer	...	Heart affected
2 Bullocks	...	Head affected

### Disposal of Carcases Deposited on Foreshore

Animal carcases are still being deposited around the foreshore from time to time. Arrangements have to be made for disposal, usually by burial in lime on the foreshore.

### Total Notices (Served as under)

Public Health Act	...	...	...	1
Housing Acts	...	...	...	Nil

### Swimming Pools

The only Swimming Pool in the district is situated on the seashore and is privately owned. The pool is covered by every tide.

## **Offensive Trades**

Byelaws are in operation for the control of Offensive Trades. There is one in the district—the Tannery at Swimbridge.

## **Underground Sleeping Rooms**

There is no need for regulations in this area in respect of underground sleeping rooms.

## **Rodent Control**

Regular monthly routine inspections and poison treatment when necessary has kept all Council refuse tips and sewage disposal sites well under control of any infestation by rats and mice.

The 19 sewerage systems were test baited and treated where required, twice during the year, at six monthly intervals.

The number of inspections carried out on other properties totalled 720, made up as follows:—

Farm premises	...	...	...	...	220
Private and Business	...	...	...	...	370
Complaints and requests for advice	...			...	130

78 premises did show above average infestation, but after advice were cleared by owners or by contract, without the necessity of formal action.

The year ended with the District fairly clear of infestation and the co-operation of the public being on the whole good.

## **FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955**

*Food Hygiene Regulations.* 118 inspections of food premises were made during the year. Some premises were found to be below the standard set out in the regulations but, with the co-operation of the persons concerned, the necessary improvements were made without having to resort to formal action.

Special attention was paid to premises catering for summer visitors.

## **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

During the visits to food shops and inspection of items of food for sale, certain items of tinned food have been condemned due to damage or rust and leakage.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (Sections 110 and 111) OUTWORK

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of Instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing Apparel (Making, etc )	41	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	41	—	—	—	—	—

# **FACTORIES ACT, 1957—PART I OF THE ACT.**

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspection made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	9	5	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	41	36	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ... ..	13	18	Nil	Nil
Total	63	59	Nil	Nil



2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND,

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4) By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S1) Overcrowding (S.2) Unreasonable temperature (S.3) Inadequate ventilation (S.4) Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient (b) Unsuitable or defective (c) Not separate for sexes Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Outwork).		1	1	

# BUILDING SURVEYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

*The Red House,  
Castle Street,  
Barnstaple*

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Barnstaple Rural District Council.  
Mesdames Miles, Burgess, Gillespie and Gentlemen.

I beg to present the following Report on the activities  
of the Building Surveyor's Department during the year  
1961:—

## PLANS

### Details of Plans submitted

No. approved under Byelaws	...	...	86
No. disapproved under Byelaws	...	...	3
No. approved under Town Planning	...	...	568
No. disapproved under Town Planning	...	...	121
No. decision given	...	...	3
(Enquiry and deferments)			
No. withdrawn after formal submission	...	...	10
No. of Houses completed during the year:—			
(1) By Private Enterprise	...	...	194
(2) By Local Authority	...	...	2

During the year, Norman Dennis, after spending 5 years  
in the Department, resigned to enter private industry.

We welcome the return of Mr. F. A. Lethbridge, Public  
Health Inspector, who previously served this Department  
for 10 years, and Mr. E. Masters, as Building Inspector.

We extend our best wishes to them all in their new  
spheres.

I wish to record my thanks to the members of the  
Council and staff for their help and support during the past  
year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. J. DENNIS.









